

Pappas Telecasting Companies' 'donation' of \$325,000 in airtime to Republican candidates in certain areas is yet another example of a powerful media group abusing its privileged access to the public airwaves.

During election season, local audiences should be offered genuine debate -- not disingenuous offers to "purchase" an equal amount of response time.

Pappas uses the public airwaves free of charge and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. Pappas' actions are legally questionable and cast doubt on whether Pappas truly intends to serve the public interest.

These and other recent actions by other media conglomerates show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. Clearly, what is in the best interests of the public is not always what is in the best interests of corporations. We rely on the government to hold corporations accountable.

Thank you.